

and future opportunities. We discussed progress made over the past year in promoting transatlantic economic integration, including investment, accounting standards, regulatory issues, the safety of imported products, and the enforcement of intellectual property rights.

As we told our Administrations during the recent TEC meeting, transatlantic economic cooperation must be more accountable and transparent. In order to help achieve this objective, the schedules of TEC meetings, agendas, roadmaps and progress reports should be agreed upon between the core stakeholders as early as possible and then made public. Such measures are crucial to developing a clear and transparent process for setting the agenda of the TEC, extending the TEC to new sectors, and establishing a roadmap. We continued to encourage the EU and U.S. executive branches to facilitate more active participation by members of the U.S. Congress and the European Parliament in the TEC process, in particular via the TLD, especially for a pre-legislative dialogue between the respective committees of Congress and the European Parliament. TLD members should be full partners in the Transatlantic Economic and Energy Councils.

We note that on the European side, responsibility for coordinating the TEC will pass from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry to its Directorate-General for Trade. We believe that this can provide a new impetus toward removing barriers to trade and investment and on fostering competitiveness in the transatlantic market.

STRENGTHENING THE TLD

We agreed that a working group should come up as soon as possible with a list of concrete proposals for the further work of the TLD. We noted the recent document written by the Atlantic Council of the United States along with several other policy think tanks, entitled "Shoulder to Shoulder: Forging a Strategic U.S.-EU Partnership." We supported several of the recommendations in the document and will use them as a starting point. For example:

U.S. Members of the TLD should be drawn from both House and Senate. U.S. House members should be appointed by the Speaker of the House.

The U.S. Congress should open an office in Brussels. The office would service the TLD and monitor legislation affecting U.S. interests. We noted the European Parliament is opening an office in Washington in January 2010.

The TLD should convene a joint consultative committee on the extraterritorial implications of domestic legislation; and focus regular exchanges on upstream regulatory legislation.

The TLD should hold joint hearings and conduct joint study tours to areas of common concern, for instance to the Middle East.

The U.S. Congress and the European Parliament should ensure regular contacts between appropriate staff, not simply in foreign affairs-related work but across the board in key areas of mutual engagement.

The TLD should spearhead a new generation of internships in Congressional and European Parliament offices. Each Congressional office should offer to host one intern from the EU; each European Parliament office should offer to host one intern from the United States.

In conclusion, we reaffirmed our commitment to strengthening the transatlantic relationship and working in partnership to solve common challenges. We pledged to continue improving the effectiveness of our dialogue in order to realize the full potential of

our invaluable interparliamentary relationship, as well as to ensure the relevance of the TLD's work to the European Parliament and the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING BETTY SALTER FOR RECEIVING THE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTERNATIONAL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Betty Salter upon being awarded the Habitat for Humanity International Lifetime Achievement Award. Betty has dedicated her life to serving others, and I am proud to honor her service and commitment to the community.

Betty Salter is one of the founders of the Pensacola Habitat for Humanity and has served on the Board of Directors for 28 years. In the early years of the Pensacola affiliate, Betty served as chairman of the Family Selection Committee. In the late 1980's, when the affiliate could not afford to hire a director, she answered the call and volunteered as the Executive Director of Pensacola Habitat. Twenty years later, Betty remains the volunteer Executive Director. She and her husband James, also a volunteer, work six days a week building houses for low income families.

When Betty took over as Executive Director, the Pensacola Habitat for Humanity had built a total of four homes. Five years later, under Betty's leadership, house production jumped to twenty per year. Today, the affiliate builds between 55 and 60 homes each year. Betty's enthusiasm, energy, and generosity have motivated thousands of volunteers in our community to donate their time and their money in support of Habitat for Humanity. In 2004 and 2005, Betty helped lead the Pensacola affiliate through Hurricanes Ivan and Dennis, making sure projects continued as scheduled.

In addition to her service with Habitat for Humanity, Betty has been dedicated to all forms of housing assistance over the years. She served on the Board of Directors for Methodist Homes of Alabama and West Florida. She also served on the Board of the Children's Services Center for over twenty years. Betty has been awarded numerous honors over the years from many charity organizations. This year, Habitat for Humanity chose Betty as one of only four volunteers to award the first Habitat for Humanity International Lifetime Achievement Award.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize Betty Salter for her service to the people of Northwest Florida. She is a dedicated community servant who has sacrificed so much for others in need. My wife Vicki and I wish all the best for continued success to Betty and her husband James, children Gail and Jane, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and entire extended family.

TRIBUTE TO LOVELY HILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2009

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Lovely Hill Baptist Association in recognition and celebration of its rich history and tremendous impact in South Carolina. On December 12, 2009 this 108-year-old organization will celebrate Founders' Day for the very first time.

This organization held its first meeting in 1901 at Lovely Hill Baptist Church in Smoaks, South Carolina. Three years later, they were chartered under the name of Lovely Hill Baptist Educational Congress to reflect their mission to provide for the education of African American youth who weren't allowed to attend public schools. In 1918 the group purchased more than 34 acres to build the first school for black children in the St. George area. Once public schools were integrated, the land was used for the county fair.

In 1932, the organization's mission had grown, and to broaden its scope, officially became known as the Lovely Hill Baptist Association. Sixty years later, Lovely Hill Baptist Association was incorporated, and today, 22 churches are members. In 1999, the association broke ground for the construction of a new conference center on the site of the original school. Construction was completed in 2005, and today the facility provides a much needed center for community activities in St. George and surrounding areas.

The association has several auxiliaries including the Sunday School Congress of Christian Education, the Lovely Hill Women's Auxiliary/Young Women's Auxiliary, the Ushers' Convention, the Brotherhood Convention, and the Youth Convention.

Over the years, a number of moderators have served the Association faithfully—Reverends Cogger H. Haygood, J.M. Marshall, S.D. Rickenbacker, and T.E. Sanders. The current moderator of the Association is my good friend, Reverend Dr. S.B. Marshall, who is ably assisted by the 1st vice-moderator, Reverend McKinley Ravenel, and 2nd vice-moderator, Reverend Floyd Wright.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me today in recognizing this organization that has contributed so much to the faith community in South Carolina. For more than a century, the Lovely Hill Baptist Association has provided excellent spiritual leadership and Christian education to the citizens of my congressional district. I applaud their rich history and significant contributions to countless numbers of my constituents. And I congratulate them on their inaugural Founders' Day and wish them Godspeed!

TRIBUTE TO DR. A. ZACHARY YAMBA

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2009

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the United States